

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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TAGS: SNAR/MX

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SPECIALIZED TRAINING FOR MEXICAN CUSTOMS

1. THROUGH RECENT CORRESPONDENCE AND CONVERSATIONS WITH CUSTOMS ATTACHE MEXICO, HQ U.S. CUSTOMS UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE EXISTS SOME INTEREST IN MEXICO IN IMPROVING CUSTOMS SHIP SEARCHING TECHNIQUES IN THE PRINCIPAL PORT OF VERACRUZ.

2. U.S. CUSTOMS DOES EMPLOY SEVERAL TEAMS OF CUSTOMS OFFICERS WHO WORK FULL TIME IN THIS FIELD. U.S. CUSTOMS EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT A THOROUGH SEARCH OF AN ARRIVING VESSEL BY A TEAM OF SPECIALLY TRAINED OFFICERS DOES IN FACT RESULT IN A HIGH SEIZURE RATE OF CONTRABAND, BOTH COMMERCIAL AND NARCOTICS.

3. WHILE U.S. CUSTOMS HAS VERY LIMITED RESOURCES TO ASSIST OTHERS IN THIS SPECIALIZED AREA IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO ASSIGN PERSONNEL TDY FOR BRIEF PERIODS TO OTHER SERVICES IN
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ORDER TO SHARE U.S. CUSTOMS EXPERIENCE. THIS CAN BE DONE BY SENDING THREE OR FOUR U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICERS TO A GIVEN PORT TO WORK FOR ABOUT A WEEK WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS. THE USUAL METHOD IS FOR THE TEAM TO SPEND SEVERAL HOURS A DAY IN A CLASSROOM SITUATION WITH A GROUP OF NO MORE THAN 20 CUSTOMS OFFICERS OF THE HOST COUNTRY AND THEN TO ACTUALLY PUT THE THEORETICAL OR CLASSROOM KNOWLEDGE TO USE THE SAME

DAY BY ACTUALLY SEARCHING SELECTED VESSELS IN PORT. A FIVE DAY WORK WEEK WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO ACCOMPLISH THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROGRAM.

4. SHOULD MEXICAN CUSTOMS BE INTERESTED IN THIS PROJECT, NO COSTS WOULD BE INCURRED BY THEM AS THESE WOULD BE COVERED UNDER INC FUNDING. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE WEEK OF APRIL 9-15 MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THIS PROJECT IF AGREEABLE TO MEXICAN CUSTOMS. VANCE

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